

Egyptian Domestic Media Monitoring Report

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Special Report: Military Clashes with Copts in Maspero

State Owned Media

Egyptian Christian protesters reportedly hurl stones at policemen, soldiers - TV

In an urgent caption on 9 October at 1655 GMT, the state-run Egyptian TV's Channel 1 said that "protesting Christians hurled stones at policemen and soldiers who are protecting the television building" downtown.

The television interrupted its normal programming to broadcast live footage of protesters and army vehicles on fire

- Source: Channel 1 TV, Cairo, in Arabic 1640 GMT 09 Oct 11

Egyptian Christians block road, set army vehicles ablaze - TV

The state-run Egyptian TV's Nile News on 9 October at 1640 GMT said in an urgent caption: "Protesting Christians block road outside television building" downtown.

The television said the Christians call for the quick issuance of the unified worshipping law and investigations over the Marinab church incident, in which the governorate reportedly removed construction works for not issuing a permit.

The television showed footage of some army's vehicles on fire as the presenter said that the protesters set vehicles ablaze and attacked soldiers.

"The protest was transferred into riots," the presenter said.

The presenter also said that clashes occurred between the protesters and the military police

- Source: Channel 1 TV, Cairo, in Arabic 1640 GMT 09 Oct 11

Egyptian rioting toll rises

"Two soldiers were killed and three wounded after they were shot by Christian protesters outside the television building," the state-owned Egyptian Nile News said on 9 October at 1642 gmt.

Earlier reports said that one soldier was killed and 20 wounded.

The state-run Egyptian Channel 1 showed footage of wounded soldiers who said that the "Christian protesters shot fire and hurled stones at them"

- Source: Nile News TV, Cairo, in Arabic 1642 GMT 09 Oct 11

One Egyptian soldier killed, 20 wounded after being shot by Christians

The state-run Egyptian TV's Channel 1 on 9 October at 1720 GMT said that one soldier was killed and 20 wounded after they were shot by Christian protesters outside the television building downtown.

According to the TV's correspondent, the Christians were also carrying white weapons.

Earlier, the television said that an apartment building was on fire after the protests set several armored vehicles on fire

- Source: Channel 1 TV, Cairo, in Arabic 1720 GMT 09 Oct 11

Egyptian cabinet to hold emergency meeting to discuss Christian protests

At 0750 GMT on 10 October, Egyptian state-run Nile News TV alerted the following screen caption:

"Cabinet holds an emergency meeting today to discuss Maspero incidents."

Clashes erupted between Christian protestors and security forces in the area in front of the Egyptian TV building (Maspero) and incidents left 24 people killed and more than 200 injured

- Source: Nile News TV, Cairo, in Arabic 0750 GMT 10 Oct 11

Egypt declares TV mourning in solidarity with victims of Copts protests

At 1247 GMT on 10 October, the Egyptian state-owned Channel 1 TV ran an urgent caption saying:

"Minister of Information [Usamah Haykal] declares the state of mourning in the TV and radio programs throughout the day [10 October] in solidarity with the families of the victims."

- Source: Channel 1 TV, Cairo, in Arabic 1247 GMT 10 Oct 11

Egypt TV airs sermon, funeral of Coptic victims of 9 Oct protests

At 1300 GMT on 10 October, the Egyptian state-owned Channel 1 TV cut its normal transmission to air live from the Coptic Cathedral in Al-Abbasiah (Cairo) the sermon and funeral of the Copts who were killed yesterday in clashes in front of the TV building in the aftermath of an angry Coptic protest against what the Christians claim was the demolition of a church in Aswan south of Cairo

- Source: Channel 1 TV, Cairo, in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Oct 11

Egypt: government adds article to penal code on discrimination

On 1640 GMT at 10 October, the Egyptian state-owned Channel 1 TV ran an urgent caption saying: "The government: adding a new article to the penal code to ban [religious] discrimination."

- Source: Channel 1 TV, Cairo, in Arabic 1640 GMT 10 Oct 11

Summary of Egyptian Nile News TV 1600 GMT 11 Oct 11 (Domestic Issues)

- Spokesman for cabinet denies Al-Jazeera reports that government has resigned, says deputy prime minister's resignation still under consideration.
- Military prosecution starts investigations with 25 suspects following Maspero events. Video report.
- Live two-way with journalist who says government started to show serious attitude towards public demands after recent events.
- Egyptian information minister rejects accusations of incitement against Egyptian TV.
- Nomination for parliamentary elections to start on 12 October.
- Egyptian military ruler discusses with North Sudanese vice president regional situation, ties.
- Egyptian prime minister emphasizes necessity of holding strategic relations between Egypt, Sudan during talks with North Sudanese vice president.

BBC Media Monitoring- "Egypt's state TV describe 9 Oct Coptic clashes as 'conspiracy'":

"The Egyptian state-owned TVs - Nile News and Channel 1 - devoted most of their coverage on 10 October to the clashes in front of the TV building in Maspero area (near Al-Tahrir Square) between Coptic protestors and the Armed Forces and Ministry of Interior forces.

The Egyptian Copts staged a demonstration on 9 October that started from Shubra neighborhood and headed for Maspero. At Maspero, clashes started leaving 25 killed and more than 300 injured, mostly Christians.

The two state-owned channels were observed to have similar tones of coverage, urging "national unity" and describing what happened as a "conspiracy" planned by non-Christian non-Muslim forces.

Channel 1:

...The station interviewed over the telephone the minister of information who expressed "anger" as "army personnel were attacked and killed. This is not acceptable. These people are the symbols of the state".

The station's news bulletins aired interviews with injured army soldiers in the hospital. They all said that they were attacked by armed people while they were only securing the demonstrators. It also highlighted the statement of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) and of the prime minister. Channel 1 frequently aired either recorded footage of yesterday's events, showing cars set on fire and people throwing stones, or live footage of Maspero area, showing that traffic returned to normal without problems.

Nile News:

The station's early morning talk show, A New Morning, relayed footage of the 9 October events, showing burnt cars and other forms of violence, including footage of some people attacking a police vehicle.

The presenter was observed to mildly attack the Egyptian Coptic church, saying that "Al-Azhar's grand imam responded quickly to the events and called for a meeting of the Family House [an institution charged with observing the issue of Muslim-Coptic relations]. However, the church did not respond; nothing came out from its side to urge people to be wise".

In a video report, the narrator quoted army soldiers as saying they had "no orders to use live ammunition". Not only that, they said they had "no live ammunition with them" in the first place...

...Christian political activists Kamal Zakhir and George Ishaq were also interviewed over the telephone by the station. Ishaq said: "The official media is playing a very bad role. It accuses the demonstrators of having guns and attacking the army... This is not true... We need a probe in the event to know the reality."

- Source: Media observation by BBC Monitoring in English 10 Oct 11

Al-Ahram in Arabic 09 Oct 2011

- Front-page report cites a recent study which showed that the majority of Egyptians are concerned over the unstable security situation, growing economic pressure and fears of chaos in the society. According to the study, economic fears come before security fears. A more detailed report is provided in inner pages. (pp 1, 5; 1,800 words)

Al-Ahram in Arabic 10 Oct 2011

- "It was thought that with the ousting of the Mubarak regime, the ongoing issues at the church in Alexandria and the failure to protect Christian citizens would be done away with. It was also widely believed that all that vanished with the first wave of revolutions and when both Christians and Muslims prayed together at Al-Tahrir Square.... Extremism has not changed much. It was very clear that the Maspero group was formed because there weren't enough Muslims to fight for the rights of Christians... Fundamentalism exists in many societies. However, silence towards fundamentalism is what is heartbreaking to a nation which always talks about peace and love." (10) (Commentary by Dr Abd-al-Mun'im Sa'id - "From Cairo")

Al Ahram in Arabic 11 Oct 2011

- The recent events that reached their peak in Maspero's clashes two days ago indicate that outlaws are driving the nation towards a dangerous slide; as there is nothing that justifies violence when demonstrators call for any demands. (Editorial - Nation, deterring outlaws")
- Front-page report on official and popular efforts to contain the repercussions of the Maspero tragedy, in which 25 persons were killed and 329 wounded. (p 1; 600 words)
- Brief report says forensic reports revealed that Maspero victims died of bullets and sharp tools and some of them were crushed by vehicles. (p 1; 40 words)
- Report cites news agencies as saying the United States has denied reports that it offered to send troops to protect Copts in [Egypt](#). A more detailed report is provided in inner pages. (p 1; 400 words)
- Article by Ashraf al-Ashri laments the situation in the country. However, he sees the moment as a "major opportunity for transformation and great triumph.....by crossing over to a modern civilian state without generals." (p 2; 600 words)
- Special file on Maspero tragedy offers reports on preliminary investigations, eyewitness stories, the funerals of the victims, and reactions by various establishments, religious bodies and political powers. (pp 5-7; 12,000 words)

Al Ahram Online in English 10 Oct 2011

- Outrage over state TV's misinformation and anti-Coptic incitement: "A number of critics say that Egyptian state television not only failed to calm matters, but actually played a role in aggravating an already tense situation."
<http://english.ahram.org.eg/~NewsContent/1/64/23813/Egypt/Politics-/Outrage-over-State-TVs-misinformation-and-antiCopt.aspx>

Al Jumhuriyah in Arabic 09 Oct 2011

- Report by Safwat Imran cites a source in the Democratic Alliance for Egypt as saying electoral quotas will be distributed among the parties of the alliance in such a way that gives the Freedom and Justice party 45 per cent; al-Ghad Party 10 per cent, the Nasirite Party and al-Karamah 8 per cent each, the Labour Party 6 per cent, Modern Egypt 3 per cent, and 1 per cent, equal to 5 parliament seats, for all other parties. (p 2; 500 words)

Al Jumhuriyah in Arabic 11 Oct 2011

- "People will not allow any force regardless of its identity to separate between a Muslim and a Christian brother... It is time for contemplation and pondering, after hours of security absence and stirring up feelings that took place two days ago, to realize the reality that has been confirmed throughout history: 'Religion is for God and Egypt is for everyone'." (Editorial- Egypt to win via faithful people, sacrificing army")
- Article by Muhammad al-Izabi stresses that the rush to accuse "hidden hands" and "implanted bunch" will not preclude the repetition of Maspero incidents. (p 20; 550 words)

Privately Owned Media

Al Wafd in Arabic 11 Oct 2011

- Article by Chief Editor Sulayman Judah says what happened in spite of the fact that the Coptic march and its course were known in advance means that the prime minister "is absolutely unfit and has to resign his post voluntarily." (p 1; 650 words)
- Article by Wajdi Zayn-al-Din underlines the need for self-restraint in the wake of the tragic incidents in Maspero to preclude a major sedition between the army and the people and to unite "to deny the advocates of anarchy and destruction who carry out the US plot to weaken Egypt the chance to act." (p 4; 650 words)
- Article by Ala Uraybi regrets that Isam Sharaf and his colleagues, whom he calls "the remnants battalions," insist on destroying the revolution and handing the country over to Islamists affiliated with the previous regime." The writer refuses to believe the idea of "foreign conspiracy" whenever the country sees sect-related incidents. He demands Sharaf to "go just like the previous regime did, after causing enough damage to the country." (p 5; 650 words)

Al Wafd in Arabic 09 Oct 2011

- Article by Wajdi Zayn-al-Din lashes out at two Coptic figures for appealing to Netanyahu to intervene to protect Copts in Egypt. (p 4; 750 words)
- Special file discusses the future of the US aid to Egypt, which is wasted on salaries and rewards and was used by Mubarak to "serve US interests." A report in the file examines the debate that erupted in the wake of the revolution on whether to do with or without aid. (pp 8-9; 6,000 words)

Al-Masry al-Youm in Arabic 09 Oct 2011

- Report cites "an informed source" as saying SCAF "will not let a civilian president choose the general commander of the Armed Forces," and that this "will be the army's next battle when the time comes for drawing up a constitution. (p 1; 300 words)
- Report says a number of parties that took part in the meeting with SCAF launched a "fierce attack on Dr Muhammad ElBaradei" for saying the parties that attended the meeting "lost credibility." (p 1; 400 words)
- Article by Muhammad Amin underlines the need to reconsider the position of religious satellite channels, both Muslim and Copt, and to suspend their transmission. (p 7; 700 words)

Blogosphere

Sandmonkey:

The Last Chance: asks how the SCAF could attack and kill Egyptians on the street so casually, when their purpose is to protect them from getting killed in the first place? Blames SCAF for violence, military for miscalculating decision and state media for inciting violence. Sandmokey thinks that the army has dug its own hole because now Christian Egyptians know they should not count on them for protection, which means that the people must unite regardless of sectarian affiliations. Source: <http://www.sandmonkey.org/2011/10/11/the-last-choice/>